

Message Text

SECRET

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15 41

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 ERDE-00 DRC-01

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1201

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0430

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN- 0430 VICE 040)

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF OPTION III

1. THE FOLLOWING USDEL COMMENTS ON THE FRG PAPER TRANSMITTED REFTEL ARE PROVIDED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR AND ARE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL ONES HE MAY WISH TO MAKE CONCERNING PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF OPTION III.

2. WE AGREE WITH USNATO OFFICER'S REMARK TO HOYNCK (PARA 9 REFTEL) THAT PRESENT WORDING OF FRG PARA 9
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WOULD SEEM TO DOWNGRADE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY ALLIES

TO REMOVAL OF THE SOVIET TANK ARMY. WE ALSO BELIEVE
SAME PARA SHOULD BE RECAST IN TERMS OF REDUCTIONS RATHER
THAN OBLIGATIONS TO AVOID LEADING THE PRESS INTO
A DEBATE OVER THE COMPLEX ISSUE OF RECIPROCAL LIMITATIONS
OR PREJUDICING FINAL NATO RESOLUTION OF HOW BEST TO TREAT
SOVIET NUCLEAR LIMITATIONS. TO MEET THESE POINTS, WE SUGGEST FRG
PARA EXPLAINING LACK OF FULL RECIPROCITY BE CHANGED TO READ
AS FOLLOWS:

"TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATO'S OBJECTIVE
IN PROPOSING TO REDUCE CERTAIN NUCLEAR ELEMENTS,
IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE REDUCTIONS WHICH WILL
TAKE PLACE WILL DIFFER IN SOME RESPECTS FOR
EACH SIDE. THIS IS SO BECAUSE THE WEST IS
CRITICALLY CONCERNED WITH THE EASTERN GROUND
FORCE PREPONDERANCE, PARTICULARLY IN MANPOWER
AND MAIN BATTLE TANKS, AND SEEKS AN AGREEMENT
THAT RESULTS IN APPROXIMATE PARITY IN
GROUND FORCES AND A REDUCTION OF THE EXISTING
DISPARITY IN MAIN BATTLE TANKS.

ONE MAY ADD THAT MBFR AGREEMENTS CANNOT BE
EXPECTED TO REDUCE SOVIET NUCLEAR AND AIR
FORCES IN THE SOVIET UNION. BY THE SAME TOKEN,
NATO DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES OUTSIDE THE AGREED
AREA OF REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT BE REDUCED EITHER."

RESOR

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS, BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MBFRV00430
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750338-0447
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975096/aaaaaeoi.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF OPTION III
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006